

Michigan United Conservation Clubs

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Conserving, Enhancing and Protecting Michigan's Natural Resources and Outdoors Heritage since 1937.



January 23, 2013

Senate Judiciary Committee
Senator Rick Jones, Chair

RE: Senate Bill 49 Support

Dear Chairman Jones and Members of the Committee,

Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) has a long history of support for the right to keep and bear arms, and we firmly believe in the rights of our trained and law abiding citizens to own and carry handguns.

Senate Bill 49 ensures that the names and addresses of those registered to own and carry handguns are kept confidential and only used for administrative or law enforcement purposes.

In New York recently, the names and addresses of citizens who owned a firearms permit was obtained by a Freedom of Information Act request and subsequently published in a local newspaper, along with a map of their location. Whether it was for information or intimidation purposes, the act was uncalled for. New York legislators responded quickly by passing legislation that restricted access to gun permit information.

MUCC feels that our lawfully registered firearms owners deserve the same protection. Owning and keeping a firearm is not a crime, and it is not a deficiency. It is the right of every able and law abiding citizen. If one chooses not to exercise this right, so be it. But that should not allow someone to harass and intimidate lawful citizens exercising their own rights by treating them like they are on a sex offender list.

Senate Bill 49 would go a long way to treat the dignity and confidentiality of Michigan's lawful firearm owning citizens with respect. We hope the members of this committee share this respect for our citizens and join us in supporting SB 49.

Sincerely,

Kent Wood
Legislative Affairs Manager